

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09120 151318Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 151250Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6459

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9120

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC

SUBJECT: RELEASED PDRY AMERICAN PRISONERS: TORHAN AND KOPP

REF CAIRO 9094

1. AFTER A NIGHT'S SLEEP AND THE FIRST GOOD BREAKFAST THEY HAVE HAD IN TWO YEARS, ORHAN AND KOPP WERE BROUGHT BY THIS MORNING TO SEE AMBASSADOR. HE HAS ARRANGED THAT THEY WILL STAY AT THE RESIDENCE DURING THEIR PERIOD IN CAIRO. ALTHOUGH EGYPTIANS HAD PLANNED TO PUT THEM INTO HILTON OR SHERATON HOTELS AT GOE EXPENSE, IT IS CLEAR THAT AFTER THEIR LONG ISOLATION THEY NEED SOME UNDERSTANDING AMERICAN COMPANY RATHER THAN AN IMPERSONAL HOTEL ROOM. AMBASSADOR INFORMED MARWAN OF THIS AND LATTER FULLY UNDERSTANDS.

2. WE HAVE ARRANGED THAT NAMRU GIVE BOTH MEN A PHYSICAL CHECKUP. NAMRU INFORMS US THAT, WHILE RESULTS OF LAB TESTS MUST STILL BE AWAITED, COMPLETE PHYSICAL ON BOTH MEN WITHIN NORMAL LIMITS. THEIR MENTAL STATUS IS ALSO GOOD, ALTHOUGH KOPP IS STILL VERY EDGY AND NEEDS A FEW DAYS TO UNWIND. NAMRU CHIEF BELIEVES THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROCEED TO US UNESCORTED TO THREE OR FOUR DAYS TIME. MEANWHILE EMBASSY NURSE WILL HELP LOOK AFTER THEM.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 09120 151318Z

3. CONTRARY TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF LATE LAST

NIGHT ON FUNDS, TORHAN DOES HAVE ABOUT \$2,000 IN TRAVELERS CHECKS, WHICH HE CAN USE TO DEFRAID COST OF RETURN AIRLINE TICKET IF ONE NEEDS BE BOUGHT. AS INDICATED CAIRO 9116, WE ARE TRYING TO ASCERTAIN IF HIS CONFISCATED RETURN TICKET CAN SOMEHOW BE REVALIDATED TO COVER COST OF RETURN. KOPP HAS ONLY \$60 AND WILL NEED FINANCIAL HELP.

4. WE ARE NOT SAYING ANYTHING TO THE PRESS AND HAVE SUGGESTED THAT TORHAN AND KOPP ALSO SAY NOTHING. THEY AGREE. SINCE EGYPTIANS WANT SOME FAVORABLE PUBLICITY ON THEIR ASSISTANCE IN GETTING THE MEN RELEASED, THE STORY WILL SOONER OR LATER BREAK. IF IT DOES, WE PROPOSE TO SAY THAT GOE HAS INDEED ARRANGED THE RELEASE OF THE TWO MEN, THAT THEY ARE HERE AND RELATIVELY WELL CONSIDERING THEIR ORDEAL, AND THAT WE ARE LOOKING AFTER THEM FOR A FEW DAYS UNTIL THEY ARE READY TO RETURN TO THE US. WE WILL ADD THEY DO NOT WISH TO SEE NEWSMEN.

5. SINCE BOTH MEN ARE STILL UNDER CONSIDERABLE TENSION, WE ARE NOT ATTEMPTING ANY COMPREHENSIVE DEBRIEFING. IN CASE OF KOPP, HOWEVER, HIS EMOTIONS ARE SUCH AT THE MOMENT THAT ELEMENTS OF HIS STORY ARE COMING OUT. WE ASSUME DEBRIEFING WILL TAKE PLACE IN US, BUT WILL PUT TOGETHER SUCH INFORMATION AS THEY MAY PROVIDE.

5. EXACT DATE OF THEIR RETURN NOT YET CLEAR. IF POSSIBLE, WE WOULD LIKE TO SEND THE TWO MEN BACK TOGETHER. WILL ADVISE WHEN THEIR FLIGHT DATA KNOWN.

7. TELEPHONE CALLS TO FAMILIES HAVE BEEN BOOKED IN AMBASSADOR'S NAME FOR 1800 LOCAL TIME SEPT 15 (STATE 218827).
EILTS

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